

“BIO”

RAMONA A. JOHNSON

After serving 12 years in the Indiana Women’s Prison, Ramona Johnson, formally known as inmate number 951427, was released on September 2, 2005.

Prior to being sentenced, Ramona was a productive member of society. She was working full time, attending Indiana University/Purdue University – Indianapolis, and actively involved in church. Unfortunately, one momentary lapse in judgment and four critical mistakes would change her life forever and land her within the Indiana Correctional system.

While incarcerated, Ramona witnessed personal destruction in massive quantities. She saw first hand how bad choices destroyed the lives of good people and how easy it was to blame others for mistakes. She soon learned that others were not responsible for her mistakes or her future – she was, and that rehabilitation was a choice made available to every single inmate.

Toward that end, Ramona began her journey back to freedom by accepting personal accountability and by taking advantage of the various educational and rehabilitative programs offered by the Indiana Correctional system. She tutored inmates toward obtaining their GED, received a certificate in Computer Aide Design, and earned both an Associate and Bachelor’s degree.

Since being released, Ramona has dedicated her new life to educating the public about gun violence and the social importance of self esteem, and making good choices.

Recently Ramona was awarded a grant from Indiana Project Safe Neighborhoods, an anti-gun violence program of the U.S. Attorney’s Office, Southern District of Indiana. The grant will allow Ramona to take her message to schools and communities on the importance of making good choices.